THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The information is not readily available. The same will be collected from the State Governments/Union territory administrations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) A number of steps, including stress on education, have been taken by the Government for educating people about the consequence of the evil practice of child (including teenage) marriage through mass media, by involving voluntary organisations in the task and by other measures. These include radio programmes, exhibiting cinema slides, posters and short documentary films on T.V. group discussions with rural women, etc. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 was amended in 1978 with a view to provide that offences under the Act shall be cognizable for the purpose of investigation and for all matters other than matters referred to in section 42 of the Cr. P.C. 1973 (arrest on refusal to give name and residence) and the arrest of a person without a warrant or without an order of the magistrate. The practice of Child or teenage marriage has been deeply embedded among certain sections of the society and any legislation, however stringent its provisions may be, would not achieve the object of stopping this practice. It is only through social and economic upliftment of these sections that the practice can be eradicated completely.

Misuse of public funds by Oswal Group of Companies

1837. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of raising of over Rs. 600 crores from share holders and public by one of the companies of Oswal Group in 1989 and these funds are being used for other purposes than the one for which they were advertised, i.e. putting up fertilizers plant in Uttar Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to avoid such misuse of funds raised from the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the concerned Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.

Shifting of Registered Office from Delhi to Ludhiana by Oswal Group of Companies

1838. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some companies of Shri Abhey Oswal Group are shifting their registered office from Delhi to Ludhiana to avoid facing large number of small share holders in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to protect the interest of small share holders in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Changing the place of registered office of a company from one State to another requires confirmation by the Com-